Judge Yvonne Williams J.P. Precinct One 4717 Heflin Lane, Ste 107 Austin, TX 78721 (512) 854-7700



Judge Sylvia Holmes J.P. Precinct Three 8656 B.W. Hwy 71, Ste 100 Austin, TX 78735 (512) 854-6763

Travis County Justices of the Peace

Judge Randall Slagle J.P. Precinct Two 10409 Burnet Rd., Ste 180 Austin, TX 78758 (512) 854-4545 Judge Nicholas Chu J.P. Precinct Five 1000 Guadalupe St., Rm 112 Austin, TX 78701 (512) 854-9049

Judge Raúl A. González J.P. Precinct Four 4011 McKinney Falls Pkwy, Ste 1200 Austin, TX 78744 (512) 854-9479

NINTH MODIFICATION OF STANDING ORDER REGARDING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) MITIGATION TO ALL TRAVIS COUNTY JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (JUSTICE COURTS) (Order No. 11)

- 1. The Justices of the Peace in Travis County issue this order pursuant by the authority granted by law, by all emergency orders regarding the COVID-19 state of disaster issued by the Supreme Court of Texas and Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, and any applicable federal laws and orders. The Travis County Justices of the Peace issue the following order to avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public in regards to COVID-19.
- 2. This order supplements all previous COVID-19 related standing orders from the Travis County Justices of the Peace.
- 3. Due to the continued COVID-19 disaster declarations by the federal, state, and Travis County governments; the number of COVID-19 cases in the Austin-Travis County area; relevant gubernatorial executive orders; relevant Travis County Judge's Orders; the relevant Supreme Court of Texas emergency orders, the Justices of the Peace in Travis County find it necessary to order:
 - a. A trial under Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 510.7 in a residential eviction case is automatically abated until after April 1, 2021 if:
 - The grounds for eviction are solely for non-payment of rent/housing payments, and
 - ii. The defendant's/tenant's portion of the monthly rent/housing payment of the premises is \$2,475.00 a month or less.

- b. This order does not release a plaintiff's/landlord's obligation to comply with paragraph 3 of *The Supreme Court of Texas' Thirty-Second Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster* (restated in paragraph 4a of this order) or any subsequent Supreme Court of Texas Emergency Order on this subject matter. Additionally, if all the statements are true for a defendant/tenant in a declaration under penalty of perjury for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Temporary Halt in Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19 ("CDC Declaration"), the defendant/tenant is encouraged to submit the CDC Declaration with the justice court and provide a copy of the submitted CDC Declaration to the plaintiff/landlord, even if the eviction case is automatically abated under paragraph 3a.
- c. Writs of possession for cases that have been abated prior to September 30, 2020 for evictions solely on the basis for non-payment of rent/housing payments will continue to be abated until after April 1, 2021 if the defendant/tenant has filed a CDC Declaration with the justice court prior to the writ of possession's execution.
- d. A defendant/tenant, where the defendant's/tenant's portion of the monthly rent/housing payment of the premises is more than \$2,475 a month must file a CDC Declaration to abate an eviction case under the CDC Order or *The Supreme Court* of Texas' Thirty-Second Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster (or any subsequent Supreme Court of Texas Emergency Order on this subject matter).
- e. For residential eviction cases heard after October 1, 2020, if a justice court finds that the plaintiff/landlord has alleged grounds for the eviction case other than non-payment of rent/housing payments as a pretext due to the defendant/tenant submitting a CDC Declaration to the plaintiff/landlord prior to the eviction case being filed or was a pretext to circumvent paragraph 3 of this order or the CDC Order, the Justice Court shall abate or dismiss the case. The justice court may also sanction the plaintiff/landlord or its agents for the pretextual filing.
- f. A sample CDC Declaration is attached to this order titled, *Declaration under Penalty of Perjury for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Temporary*

- Halt in Evictions to Prevent Further Spread of COVID-19. The sample declaration or a similar declaration may be used.
- g. If CDC Order titled, Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19, are revoked prior to April 1, 2021, then the provisions specifically and as narrowly construed related to the CDC Order/Moratorium will no longer be applicable.
- 4. In any action for eviction to recover possession of residential property under Chapter 24 of the Texas Property Code and Rule 510 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure:
 - a. A sworn original, amended, or supplemental petition containing "a description of the facts and grounds for eviction" required by Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 510.3(a)(2) must state whether or not:
 - The premises are a "covered dwelling" subject to Section 4024 of the CARES Act;
 - The plaintiff/landlord has provided the defendant with 30 days' notice to vacate under Sect 4024(c) of the CARES Act;
 - iii. The defendant/tenant has provided the plaintiff/landlord with a declaration under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's agency order, titled Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19, ("CDC Order") that took effect on September 4, 2020 and is extended by Section 502 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021;
 - iv. The premises are a property securing an FHA-insured Single Family mortgage
 - b. Consistent with paragraph 3c of the Supreme Court of Texas' Thirty-Second Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster, plaintiffs/landlords in all residential eviction cases are required to file with the Justice Court, and serve on the defendants/tenants, a sworn affidavit/or unsworn declaration under penalty of perjury verifying the information required in paragraph 4a if that information is not apparent in the sworn original petition.
 - A justice court may dismiss without prejudice due to an insufficient pleading, any eviction case covered under paragraph 4 after the justice court

- has provided notice to both parties that the information required in paragraph 4 is potentially missing and giving the plaintiff/landlord at least 14 days to cure the pleading.
- ii. Filing with the Justice Court a sworn affidavit/or unsworn declaration under penalty of perjury to verify the information required in paragraph 4a, and serving it on the defendant/tenant, will be sufficient to meet the requirements imposed by paragraph 4a and 4b.
- iii. Attached to this order is a sample sworn affidavit/or unsworn declaration under penalty of perjury to verify the information required in paragraph 4a, titled *Verification of Compliance with Section 4024 of the CARES Act and the CDC Issued Federal Moratorium Order*. If a plaintiff/landlord wishes to use another form to comply with this order, the substantive information contained in the sample must be contained in the plaintiff's form.
- c. Plaintiff/landlord's are required to include the last known phone number and email address (if email address is known to the plaintiff) of the defendant(s)/tenant(s) in the sworn original, amended, or supplemental petition. If no known phone number of the defendant(s) is known to the plaintiff/landlord then plaintiff/landlord must affirmatively state in the sworn pleading that no phone number is known. The same remedies as paragraph 4b of this order may be used in this provision.
- 5. Any jury trial until April 1, 2021 must be tried remotely consistent with *The Supreme Court of Texas' Thirty-Third Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster*.
- This order does not diminish the Justices of the Peace's ability to continue to issue judgments, orders, and rulings by submission if already authorized by law to do so for noneviction cases.
- 7. In order to alleviate the threat of COVID-19 in county jails, the Justices of the Peace temporarily suspend active warrants for all misdemeanor Class C offenses from their courts until April 1, 2021. All the requirements and conditions of the warrants previously

signed by the Justices of the Peace remain in effect but are suspended during this state of emergency. For the effective suspension, the Travis County Sheriff's Office, Travis County Constables, and all other law enforcement agencies are directed to relate this order to all law enforcement officers requesting confirmation of warrants, so that they are aware not to bring Class C defendants to the jail.

Therefore, all warrants for misdemeanor Class C offenses from the Justices of the Peace are temporarily suspended until April 1, 2021. For the duration of this suspension, the Travis County Sheriff's Office is ordered to not accept a defendant who solely has a Class C misdemeanor warrant from the Travis County Justices of the Peace.

- 8. A justice court may require new filings to be limited to E-File (EFileTexas.gov) or to the Justice Court's designated filing email as noticed in each Justice Court's website.
- 9. Each justice court is authorized to limit building access to comply with any recommendations/orders from county public health officials regarding limiting the number of people in a public space or room, including but not limited to screening whether a person's business with the Justice Court falls into court business and limiting the hours a justice court is open to the public. If a justice court limits the hours it is open to the public, notice of such limitations shall be posted on the Justice Court's official website and at its main entrance.
- 10. This order is in effect January 27, 2021 except as otherwise stated herein, and shall remain in effect until modified/rescinded by the Travis County Justices of the Peace. The time periods in this order may be extended in a subsequent order if required.

The undersigned Justice of the Peace has the necessary authority and authorization to sign this order on behalf of the five Justices of the Peace in Travis County. All Justices of the Peace in Travis County approve this order: Judges Yvonne Williams, Randall Slagle, Sylvia Holmes, Raúl González, and Nicholas Chu.

Signed on January 27, 2021



Judge Nicholas Chu

On behalf of the Justices of the Peace in Travis County, TX

Declaration under Penalty of Perjury for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Temporary Halt in Evictions to Prevent Further Spread of COVID-19 (2 pages) and Verification of Compliance with Section 4024 of the CARES Act and the CDC Issued Federal Moratorium Order (3 pages) sample documents are attached to this order

DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY FOR THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S TEMPORARY HALT IN EVICTIONS TO PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID-19

This declaration is for tenants, lessees, or residents of residential properties who are covered by the CDC's order temporarily halting residential evictions (not including foreclosures on home mortgages) to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. Under the CDC's order:

- You must provide a copy of this declaration to your landlord, owner of the residential property where you live, or other
 person who has a right to have you evicted or removed from where you live. You must also provide a copy to the court if
 a suit for eviction has been filed against you.
- Each adult listed on the lease, rental agreement, or housing contract should complete this declaration.

Unless the CDC order is extended, changed, or ended, the order prevents you from being evicted or removed from where you are living through March 31, 2021. You are still required to pay rent and follow all the other terms of your lease and rules of the place where you live. You may also still be evicted for reasons other than not paying rent or making a housing payment.

<u>This declaration is sworn testimony</u>, meaning that you can be prosecuted, go to jail, or pay a fine if you lie, mislead, or omit important information. I certify under penalty of perjury, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, that the following are true and correct:

- I have used best efforts to obtain all available government assistance for rent or housing;
- I either expect to earn no more than \$99,000 in annual income for Calendar Year 2020 (or no more than \$198,000 if filing a joint tax return), was not required to report any income in 2019 to the I.R.S., or received an Economic Impact Payment (stimulus check) pursuant to Section 2201 of the CARES Act;
- I am unable to pay my full rent or make a full housing payment due to substantial loss of household income, loss of compensable hours of work or wages, lay-offs, or extraordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses;
- I am using best efforts to make timely partial payments that are as close to the full payment as the individual's circumstances may permit, taking into account other nondiscretionary expenses;
- If evicted I would likely become homeless, need to move into a homeless shelter, or need to move into a new residence shared by other people who live in close quarters because I have no other available housing options.
- I understand that I must still pay rent or make a housing payment, and comply with other obligations that I may have under
 my tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract. I further understand that fees, penalties, or interest for not paying rent or
 making a housing payment on time as required by my tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract may still be charged or
 collected.
- I further understand that at the end of this temporary halt on evictions on March 31, 2021, my housing provider may require payment in full for all payments not made prior to and during the temporary halt and failure to pay may make me subject to eviction pursuant to State and local laws. I understand that any false or misleading statements or omissions may result in criminal and civil actions for fines, penalties, damages, or imprisonment.

Signature of Declarant	Date	
Print Full Name of Declarant	Full Address of Property	
An "extraordinary" medical expense is any unreimburse "Available housing" means any available, unoccupied re	ental rental or housing payment benefits available to the individual or any household mered medical expense likely to exceed 7.5% of one's adjusted gross income for the year. esidential property, or other space for occupancy in any seasonal or temporary housing, ndards and that would not result in an overall increase of housing cost to you.	
	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
I certify that a copy of this document was provide	d to my landlord and/or to the owner of the property where I live via the follow	wing
method(s) (check all that apply):		
First Class Mail to:	Date:	
Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to: _		
CMRRR Number:	Date:	
Email to:		
Fax to: ()	Date:	
Hand Delivery to: (name)	Date:	

Date:

DECLARACIÓN BAJO PENA DE PERJURIO PARA LOS CENTROS PARA EL CONTROL Y LA PREVENCIÓN DE LOS DESALOJOS PARA EVITAR UNA MAYOR PROPAGACIÓN DEL COVID-19

Esta declaración es para inquilinos, arrendadores o residentes de propiedades residenciales que están cubiertos por la orden del CDC que detienen temporalmente los desalojos residenciales (sin incluir las ejecuciones hipotecarias de las hipotecas de viviendas) para evitar la propagación adicional de COVID-19. Bajo la orden del CDC:

- usted debe proporcionar una copia de esta declaración a su arrendador, propietario de la propiedad residencial donde usted vive, u otra persona que tenga derecho a que lo desalojen o lo retiren de donde usted vive. Si se ha presentado una demanda de desalojo en su contra, usted deberá presentar una copia a la corte.
- Cada adulto que firmo en el contrato de arrendamiento, alquiler o vivienda debe completar esta declaración.

A menos que la orden de los CDC se extienda, cambie o termine, la orden le impide ser desalojado o eliminado de donde vive hasta el 31 de marzo de 2021. Usted todavía está obligado a pagar el alquiler y seguir todos los otros términos de su contrato de arrendamiento y las reglas del lugar donde vive. También puede ser desalojado por razones que no sean no pagar el alquiler o hacer un pago de vivienda.

<u>Esta declaración es un testimonio jurado</u>, lo que significa que usted puede ser procesado, ir a la cárcel o pagar una multa si miente, engaña u omite información importante. Certifico bajo pena de perjurio, de conformidad con 28 U.S.C. 1746, que lo siguiente es verdadero y correcto:

- He hecho los mejores esfuerzos para obtener toda la asistencia del gobierno disponible para alquiler o vivienda;
- Espero no ganar más de \$99,000 en ingresos anuales para el Año Calendario 2020 (o no más de \$198,000 si presento una declaración de impuestos conjunta), no estaba obligado a reportar ningún ingreso en 2019 a la I.R.S., o recibió un Pago de Impacto Económico (cheque de estímulo) de conformidad con la Sección 2201 de la Ley CARES;
- No puedo pagar mi alquiler completo o hacer un pago completo de la vivienda debido a la pérdida sustancial de ingresos del hogar, pérdida de horas de trabajo o salarios compensables, despidos o gastos médicos extraordinarios de su bolsillo;
- Estoy haciendo los mejores esfuerzos para hacer pagos parciales oportunos que estén tan cerca del pago completo como las circunstancias de la persona puedan permitir, teniendo en cuenta otros gastos no discrecionales;
- Si me desalojan, probablemente me convertiría en un lugar sin hogar, tendría que mudarse a un refugio para personas sin hogar, o la necesidad de mudarse a una nueva residencia compartida por otras personas que viven en lugares cercanos porque no tengo otras opciones de alojamiento disponibles.
- Entiendo que todavía debo pagar el alquiler o hacer un pago de vivienda, y cumplir con otras obligaciones que pueda tener
 bajo mi contrato de arrendamiento, contrato de arrendamiento o similar. Además, entiendo que los honorarios, multas o
 intereses por no pagar el alquiler o hacer un pago de vivienda a tiempo según lo requerido por mi arrendamiento, contrato
 de arrendamiento, o contrato similar todavía pueden ser cobrados o cobrados.
- Además, entiendo que al final de esta parada temporal de los desalojos el 31 de marzo de 2021, mi proveedor de vivienda
 puede requerir el pago completo de todos los pagos no realizados antes y durante el cese temporal y la falta de pago puede
 hacer que me someta a desalojo de conformidad con las leyes estatales y locales. Entiendo que cualquier declaración u
 omisión falsa o engañosa puede resultar en acciones penales y civiles por multas, sanciones, daños o penas.

Firma del Declarante	Fecha			
Nombre completo del declarante	Dirección completa de la propiedad	<u></u>		
'Asistencia gubernamental disponible" significa cualquier bene niembro del hogar Jn gasto médico "extraordinario" es cualquier gasto médico no 'Vivienda disponible" significa cualquier propiedad residencia emporal, que no violaría las normas federales, estatales o locale	desembolsado que pueda superar el 7,5% de los ingresos bru I disponible, desocupada u otro espacio de ocupación en	utos ajustados del año. cualquier vivienda estacional o		
CE	RTIFICACION DE SERVICIO			
o certifico que una copia de este documento ha sido p	provista a mi arrendatario y/o al dueño de la propied	lad donde resido por medio		
de los siguientes métodos (<i>marque todos los que le ap</i>	lique):			
Correo de primera clase a:	Fecha:			
Correo certificado, Acuse de recibo certificado a: _	Numero de CMRRR :	Fecha:		
correo electrónico a:	Fecha:			
Fax a: ()	Fecha:			
Entrega hecha a mano a: (nombre)				
Otros (explique):	Fecha:	<u> </u>		

Si se ha presentado una demanda de desalojo en su contra, usted deberá presentar una copia a la corte.

	CAU	JSE NO	-		
PLA	INTIFF	§ §	JUS	STICE OF THE PI	EACE
v.		§ § § §	PR	ECINCT NO	
DEF	ENDANT	9 §	TR	AVIS COUNTY, T	EXAS
<u>ve</u>	RIFICATON OF COMPLIANCE WITH S EVI	ECTION 4024 OF THE CTION MORATORIUM		ND THE CDC ISSU	JED FEDERAL
My n	name is:	74° 7 77		Y	
	First (check one) \square the Plaintiff or \square and	Middle		Last	
•	erification: Plaintiff is seeking to recover possess Name of Apartment Complex (if any)		operty:		
	Street Address & Unit No. (if any)	City	County	State	ZIP
b.	I verify that this property (select the of defined by Section 4024(a)(1) of the Conference (Please identify whether the property is mortgage loan, and if not, which database	CARES Act. The facts o has a federally backed i	n which I base mortgage loan	or federally backet	e as follows: d multifamily
	(If the property does not have a federal please state whether or not: (1) the property is federally subsidized under a vouchers.)	operty is a Low Income	Housing Tax Cr	edit (LIHTC) prop	erty, (2) the
c.	I verify that the premises (select the o	200	□ is	□ is not	
d.	has provided the defendant with 3 4024(c) and 4023(e) of the CARES A	0 days' notice to vacat Act.			
	has not provided the 30 days' noti	ce, because the proper	ty is not a "cov	ered dwelling."	

e.	I certify that the plaintiff:	☐ ha:	S	☐ has not
	received a CDC Sworn Declaration from the ter issued Federal Eviction Moratorium Order. Any person" despite receiving a Declaration can be fincluding jail, if a death occurs.	y landlord proce	eding wi	th a nonpayment eviction of a "covered
f.	I verify that I	□ hav	/e	☐ have not
*	reviewed the information about the Texas Evid diversion.			
	eclaration or Notary: Complete only one of the			
a.	<u>Declaration</u> : I declare under penalty of perjudand correct. My name is: First	ry that everythin	ng in this	s verification is true
	My birthdate is:///	Middle		Last
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or b	. <u>Notary</u> : I declare under penalty of perjury tha	at everything in	this veri	fication is true and correct
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	Your Printed Name	Tour Signatu	ire (sign	only bejoire a notary)
	Sworn to and subscribed before me this	day of		, 20
	CLERK OF THE COURT OR NOTARY	_		
<u>Plain</u> 501.4	tiff must serve this affidavit to all other part 4.	ties (including	<u>Defenda</u>	ant(s)) in accordance with TRCP
	CERTIFI	CATE OF SERV	ICE	
	ify that a copy of this document was provided to	o all other partie	es (inclu	ding Defendant(s)) via the following
	od(s) (check all that apply):		.	
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CARES Act Public Law 116-136

Sec. 4024 TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON EVICTION FILINGS.

- (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
- (1) COVERED DWELLING.— The term "covered dwelling" means a dwelling that—
- (A) is occupied by a tenant-
- (i) pursuant to a residential lease; or
- (ii) without a lease or with a lease terminable under State law; and
 - (B) is on or in a covered property.
- (2) COVERED PROPERTY.—The term "covered property" means any property that—
- (A) participates in—
- (i) a covered housing program (as defined in section 41411(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12491(a))); or
- (ii) the rural housing voucher program under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r); or
- (B) has a-
- (i) Federally backed mortgage loan; or (ii) Federally backed multifamily mortgage loan.
- (3) DWELLING.—The term "dwelling"—
- (A) has the meaning given the term in section 802 of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3602); and (B) includes houses and dwellings described in section 803(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3603(b)).
- (4) FEDERALLY BACKED MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term "Federally backed mortgage loan" includes any loan (other than temporary financing such as a construction loan) that —
- (A) is secured by a first or subordinate lien on residential real property (including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives) designed principally for the occupancy of from 1 to 4 families, including any such secured loan, the proceeds of which are used to prepay or pay off an existing loan secured by the same property; and
- (B) is made in whole or in part, or insured, guaranteed, supplemented, or assisted in any way by any officer or agency of the Federal Government or under or in connection with a housing or urban development program administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development or a housing or related program administered by any other such officer or agency, or is purchased or securitized by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation or the Federal National Mortgage Association.
- (5) FEDERALLY BACKED MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term "Federally backed multifamily mortgage loan" includes any loan (other than temporary financing such as a construction loan) that—
- (A) is secured by a first or subordinate lien on residential multifamily real property designed principally for the occupancy of 5 or more families, including any such secured loan, the proceeds of which are used to prepay or pay off an existing loan secured by the same property; and
- (B) is made in whole or in part, or insured, guaranteed, supplemented, or assisted in any way, by any officer or agency of the Federal Government or under or in connection with a housing or urban development program administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development or a housing or related program administered by any other such officer or agency, or is purchased or securitized by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation or the Federal National Mortgage Association.
- (b) MORATORIUM.—During the 120-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the lessor of a covered dwelling may not-
- (1) make, or cause to be made, any filing with the court of jurisdiction to initiate a legal action to recover possession of the covered dwelling from the tenant for nonpayment of rent or other fees or charges; or
- (2) charge fees, penalties, or other charges to the tenant related to such nonpayment of rent.
- (c) NOTICE. The lessor of a covered dwelling unit-
- (1) may not require the tenant to vacate the covered dwelling unit before the date that is 30 days after the date on which the lessor provides the tenant with a notice to vacate; and
- (2) may not issue a notice to vacate under paragraph (1) until after the expiration of the period described in subsection (b).